

**VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2012**

1. CALL TO ORDER: A monthly meeting of the City Council of Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, A Michigan City was held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 in the Council Chambers of the Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building, 795 Lake Shore Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Kedzierski.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Thaddeus Kedzierski, Council Members Alexander Ajlouni, MD, Robert H. Barrette, Jr., Bruce Bisballe, Kay Felt, Robert E. Gesell, Daniel T. Schulte

Also present: City Clerk Bruce R. Nichols
City Manager Mark Wollenweber
City Attorney Mark McInerney
Public Safety Director John Schulte
Finance Director Rhonda Ricketts
Public Works Director Brett Smith

All correspondence and reports relating to this meeting are either attached or placed on file.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 17, 2012 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the April 17, 2012 Regular Council Meeting were approved on motion by Council Member Gesell, seconded by Council Member Felt and carried by unanimous vote.

4.1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 17, 2012 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING-CLOSED SESSION

The minutes of the April 17, 2012 Regular Council Meeting- Closed Session were approved on motion by Council Member Felt, seconded by Council Member Gesell and carried by unanimous vote.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Janice Pemberton complimented Public Works Director Smith on the Dog Park improvements.

6. PUBLIC HEARING – FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013 BUDGET, TAX RATE

Council Member Bisballe reported the proposed Budget for the fiscal year 2012-2013 beginning July 1 contains a one (1) year only 1.5 mil millage increase (approximately \$300/year per household). While not specifically dedicated by council resolution for North Lake Shore Road repairs, the increase will be used to qualify the city for available 20% match (approximately \$300,000) to Federal road grants in the amount of \$960,000.

Council Member Bisballe also reported the city lost approximately \$32 million in assessed value of real estate in the last year, resulting in tax revenue decreases of about \$450,000. Nevertheless, the new council achieved nearly \$400,000 savings in its first six months in office before seeking the tax increase. Revenue was increased by insurance rebates, part time city manager and change in public safety director, increased state revenue sharing, no salary/wage increases, reduced snow removal expense, placing an injured PSO officer on permanent disability. There are no salary increases. Tree trimming can resume.

Mayor Kedzierski pointed out that the proposed budget did not impact services to the residents.

Council Member Gesell pointed out the improving financial horizon may allow the city to consider a 2 and/or 3 year budget.

Council Member Felt commended the department heads in the assistance in the budget process.

Council Member Schulte had questions as to the funding of the new PSO who replaced the disabled officer. Schulte also discussed additional street repairs needed, the possibility of a dedicated road fund.

Council Member Bisballe stated the funds derived from the 1 year tax increase will be exclusively used for road repairs.

Mayor Kedzierski reiterated the need for road repairs and expressed pleasure with the work product of the Budget and Finance Committee.

6.1 Public Comment on the Budget Process

Dr. Robert Lee requested the total millage amounts and was informed that last year's millage was 17.14 and the proposed millage is 18.30 mils. He also expressed concerns over the millage rate creeping up slowly on an incremental basis.

Raymond Rahi commended the council for the results over the last 6 months.

Gerald Miserendino expressed his concerns on the increasing millage.

Janice Pemberton had questions regarding the marina bonds and the budget.

Council Member Bisballe pointed out that city water rates will increase 25% July 1, remaining in positive cash flow for the city water revenues. Rate increases apply to water and sewer charges, and reflect higher costs from DWSD. The Grosse Pointe Yacht Club buys approximately 30% of the water in the city.

A. ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013 BUDGET, TAX RATE

The 1.5 millage increase for 2012-2013 as proposed by the Budget and Finance was approved on motion by Council Member Gesell, seconded by Council Member Bisballe and carried by unanimous vote.

On motion of Council Member Bisballe, seconded by Council Member Gesell, a motion to approve the increase in the municipal water rates as recommended was made:

AYES: Mayor Thaddeus Kedzierski, Council Members Alexander Ajlouni, MD, Robert H. Barrette, Jr., Bruce Bisballe, Kay Felt, Robert E. Gesell,

NAYS: Daniel T. Schulte

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 6-1

On motion of Council Member Felt, seconded by Council Member Gesell, a motion to approve the 2012-2013 Budget as recommended Budget and Finance Committee was made:

AYES: Mayor Thaddeus Kedzierski, Council Members Alexander Ajlouni, MD, Robert H. Barrette, Jr., Bruce Bisballe, Kay Felt, Robert E. Gesell,

NAYS: Daniel T. Schulte

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 6-1

7. REPORTS BY CHAIRPERSONS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

A. Budget and Finance – Finance Officer/Treasurer Rhonda Ricketts

1. Approval of Bills

Council Member Barrette had questions regarding multiple vendors and the cost of the Clemis System, postage meter, and Wayne County Excess Flow charges.

Council Member Schulte asked questions regarding the water meter reading device.

The monthly bills were presented by Finance Officer Ricketts, reviewed, discussed and unanimously approved for immediate payment on motion by Council Member Felt seconded by Council Member Barrette.

2. Review of Financial Reports

Finance Officer Ricketts reported the city's finances were still in sync with this year's budget.

3. Finance Committee – Finance Chairman Bisballe reported the committee is still reviewing bids for services and movement is underway for a two year budget.

B. Public Safety - Director John Schulte

1. Monthly Update – Park Rangers are trained and staffed for the season. Comments were made regarding the new PSO officer and the Arbor Day Run success. Municipal staff efforts were appreciated. A very productive meeting with the manufacturer of solar panels was held. There is a new fireworks law so the residents were forewarned. He expressed appreciation for the additional PSO.
2. Statistical and Various Other Reports – A pleasantly unremarkable month transpired.

C. Public Works - Director Brett Smith

1. Monthly Update – Public Works Director Smith noted repairs on the municipal building parking lot. The park is ready for the season with a newly painted pool. The paving of the north end of Lake Shore will begin in June. He requested a citizen initiative on evening watering.

D. Parks and Harbor

1. Harbor Committee Report – Council Member Schulte reported the shower room floor at the pool will be improved by better ventilation. Boat well measurements need to be more accurate in accordance with customary methods. Mr. Wollenweber will arrange measurement of the wells in accordance with the more accurate procedure.

E. Legal Report – City Attorney Mark McInerney requested a closed session regarding the matter with the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

F. Manager's Report – Interim City Manager Mark Wollenweber commended the efforts of the Budget and Finance Committee, the Improvement Committee, and Wayne County Commissioner Killeen regarding a bike path in the city. WOW cable approached the city regarding a possible expansion into the area. The digital phone system will be completed soon to garner a \$1400 per month savings by combining phone lines. 911 discussions with Grosse Pointe Farms Dispatch have been held. Honeywell is to examine any potential savings with an energy analysis for HVAC and streetlights. The city pumps its Lake Shore Road irrigation from Lake St. Clair, so night watering is not required. Mr. Wollenweber was commended for obtaining a

\$3500 PEG refund from the Grosse Pointe War Memorial Association.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Engineering Services- Bid Update

City Council Discussion – 11 firms were approached, 4 submitted and 4 are being studied. An analysis will be done by the Finance Committee.

B. Legal Services- Bid Update

City Council Discussion – The Budget had priority and this matter has not been sufficiently analyzed to make a fair comparison. Mr. Schulte expressed concern for a lack of progress in this matter. The matter was referred back to the Finance Committee.

C. Permanent City Manager - Update

City Council Discussion – An advertisement has been placed in the Michigan Municipal League publication and applications will be mailed to the City Clerk's post office box. Applications will be given to the search committee.

D. Solar Panel Ordinance #257 - Update

Planning Commission Chair Mary Matuja and City Attorney discussed a proposed solar panel ordinance which was recommended for approval. While the ordinance does not permit free standing solar panel, it does permit incorporation into residential structures, with a preference for solar shingles. Public Safety Director Schulte and members of his department met with a solar panel expert and was satisfied that the ordinance addressed fire safety issues, and issues of potential electrocution when connected to the power grid.

On motion of Council Member Gesell, seconded by Council Member Barrette, the council unanimously approved and passed Ordinance No. 257 which amends the City Zoning Ordinance, codified as Chapter 40 of the City Ordinance Code, by adding a new Section 40-264, which regulates the construction and use of solar energy systems in all zoning districts, and repeals inconsistent ordinances. The ordinance is to take effect upon publication of a synopsis of the ordinance.

On motion of Council Member Gesell, seconded by Council Member Barrette the council unanimously approved lifting the moratorium on the panels as soon as the ordinance is published.

E. Facility Use Policy-Policy For Use of City Garage

City Manager Mark Wollenweber described a written policy regarding the use of city facilities by employees who are not on duty. The written policy notes that the employee must have written permission for use of city facilities from the Department of Public Works Director, the use can only be personal, while not on duty, not utilizing municipal tools, without guests. The issue of liability was addressed to the satisfaction of the council.

On motion of Council Member Felt, seconded by Council Member Gesell, the council unanimously approved the written policy as presented by City Manager Wollenweber.

F. Ambassador Committee

Council Member Felt met with Grosse Pointe Public School officials and a follow up meeting is scheduled. A meeting with realtors was held to hear their concerns. A revision of the sign ordinance regarding the marketing of real estate may be in order. The committee budget expenses are de minimis.

G. Move to Macomb Committee

The council discussed a report of the Move to Macomb Committee provided by Council Member Schulte which indicated a switch to Macomb yields financial advantages of a \$1, 214,957 net gain per year for the city, approximately \$880 annually for a taxable property assessment of \$200,000, no need for reappraisal of property, a "date forward" method of all filing in the Macomb Circuit Court, Macomb Probate Court, Macomb County Clerk's office, and the Macomb County Register of Deeds. The school district would not be changed according to city attorney Mark McInerney, who is also the attorney for the Grosse Pointe Public School District. Snow plowing, county sheriff patrols, road maintenance, sea wall maintenance would exceed or meet current levels.

On motion by Council Member Bisballe, seconded by Council Member Schulte, and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED THAT:

The following advisory question shall be placed on the ballot of the August 7, 2012 primary election before the voters of the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, a Michigan City:

"SHALL THE BOUNDARY OF THE COUNTY OF

MACOMB BE ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE ALL OF
THE VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES,
A MICHIGAN CITY?"

YES ()

NO ()

- H. **Blue Ribbon Committee** - On motion by Council Member Schulte, seconded by Council Member Bisballe, and unanimously carried, Cheryl Holm was made a member of the Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Services For Older Citizens – Tabled.**

- B. **ICMA Retirement Corporation**

On motion by Council Member Felt, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and unanimously carried the council gave approval to participate with ICMA-RC in their deferred compensation plan. ICMA-RC would administer the plan on behalf of those employees of the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, A Michigan City that would like to participate in this plan.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Janice Pemberton had concerns regarding door-to-door solicitation by Comcast. Brian Banks as a candidate for District 1 State Representative introduced himself with a brief resume and his reasons for running for election.

11. COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Council Member Ajlouni commended the Budget and Finance Committee.
Council Member Felt addressed the hard work of staff in meeting the budget constraints.

12. MAYOR'S COMMENTS – Mayor Kedzierski

The Mayor pointed out that in 6 months in office, we have road repairs underway, parks and rec is flourishing and he expressed thanks to the Budget and Finance Committee.

13. NOTE DATE OF FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (Tues, 06/19/12 & 07/17/12 7:00pm)

14. VOTE ON CLOSED SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT OF REGULARLY

SCHEDULED MEETING

ROLL CALL VOTE ON CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LEGAL OPINION
ABOUT THE GROSSE POINTE YACHT CLUB WITH THE CITY ATTORNEY AS
PERMITTED BY SECTION 15.268 (C) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

AYES: Mayor Thaddeus Kedzierski, Council Members Alexander Ajlouni, MD, Robert
H. Barrette, Jr., Bruce Bisballe, Kay Felt, Robert E. Gesell, Daniel T. Schulte

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 7-0

Motion was made and carried unanimously to go into closed session and adjourn the
regularly scheduled meeting at 10:40pm.

Bruce R. Nichols, City Clerk